

77th FIDE Congress
Turin, Italy
27 May – 5 June 2006

Minutes

Technical Commission

Alekhine Room
29 May 2006

Chairman: Mr. Werner Stubenvoll

Present: W.Stubenvoll (AUT), D. De Ridder (BEL), A.Christoffel (LUX), G.Gijssen (NED), M.Nolan (USA), A.Vasse (NED), C.Krause (GER), R.Alt (GER), M.Markkula (FIN), A.Vardapetian (ARM), K.Deventer (GER), D.Jordan (GER), A.Burstein (ISR), K.Jarecki (ICV), M.Abdulrachim (UAE), V.Tsorbatzoglou (GRE), P.Nikolopoulos (GRE), A.Schuering (NED), K.Pekar (SVK), W.Kafumbwe (ZMB), I.Vereshchagin (RUS), F.Dapiran (ITA), B.Malobabic (CAN), R.Angelov (BUL), Z.Nedev (BUL), H.Elgendy (EGY), V.Petkovski (MKD), H.Majid (MAS), M.Pahlevanzadeh (IRI)

1. Opening

Chairman Mr. Stubenvoll welcomed all members of the commission and observers. 6 of the 11 commission members are present.

2 Information about Rules Committee meeting

Mr. Geurt Gijssen reported about the committee meeting which was held in a good spirit.

2 Information about Swiss Pairing Committee meeting

Mr. Christian Krause reported the decisions of the committee meeting. In addition it was decided that a default loss in the Dutch system will not be considered as any float.

Mr. Gijssen indicates that there is an English version of the description of the Dutch system applied in the Zonal tournament in Brussels 1993.

2 Testing report for electronic chess clocks

A draft of the testing report was made by Mrs. Stubenvoll and De Ridder. Commission made a number of remarks which will be included in the version to be submitted to the Executive Board and General Assembly.

The commission insisted to have no move counter used at all in the electronic chess clocks (it may still be in the software). Except for one abstention it is unanimously proposed to have no clocks with a move counter in FIDE tournaments. Manufacturers should have new clocks available for this purpose by 1 January 2008.

Except for the last time period a clock should not get into a “frozen state” when the time in a period is entirely used.

Mr. Jordan will give a list with unnecessary remarks in the current FIDE handbook C.02.05

Chairman informed about the actual list of testers, Henrique Zaragoza (MEX), Mahdi Abdulrahim (UAE) and Carol Jarecki (USV) are added to the list.

2 Endorsement of electronic chess clocks

Chairman informed that a final decision concerning Chess Timer Silver will be taken by Presidential Board in Torino.

The newest version of SAITEK clock was received for testing and Presidential Board has to appoint three testers.

2 TAP Regulations

Chairman informed about the TAP regulations established at the Dresden Congress by Mrs. Gijssen, De Ridder and Stubenvoll. Mr. Markkula proposes to have as less paper work as possible applying these regulations, in particular team composition lists.

2 Miscellaneous

The requirement for the king size in FIDE Standards for Chess Equipment should be changed into "King shall be about 9.5 cm"

Brana Malobabic presented the most recent version of the MonRoi device.

Werner Stubenvoll
Chairman

Dirk De Ridder
Secretary

Testing procedure of Electronic Chess Timers

A. Administration

1. Any producer/distributor of an electronic chess clock may apply to the FIDE Technical Commission to request that FIDE performs tests in order to receive a written statement from FIDE that a specific clock is in full accordance with FIDE rules and regulations. When the request is forwarded the clock has to be on the market for a minimum of one year.
2. The producer/distributor has to send a written application to Chairman of FIDE Technical Commission with copy to the FIDE Office.
3. The producer/distributor has to send four samples of the clock together with English manuals (and original manuals if available) to the Chairman of FIDE Technical Commission.
4. The chairman of FIDE Technical Commission will confirm the reception of the request and of the four clocks and will inform the FIDE Treasurer to send an invoice of Euro 2.500,- to the producer/distributor for the testing of the clock (see pt. 14 for exception).
5. For testing purpose a list of ten experts will be established by FIDE Technical Commission, each of them shall be member of either Technical Commission, Rules Committee, Arbiters' Council or Organizers' Committee.
6. After receipt of the payment according to pt. 4, the testers, chosen randomly by the Presidential Board, will each receive one clock and are requested to test it. Each of these three testers will receive from FIDE Euro 200,- for the complete testing procedure.
7. FIDE will publish the request for testing on the FIDE website and will later publish the decision on approval or disapproval.
8. The three testers will submit their report to the Chairman of FIDE Technical Commission within eight weeks after they received the clock for testing.
9. The Chairman of FIDE Technical Commission will compare the testing reports, he will report his overall findings back to the testers (and/or ask for additional testing, if required) and finally he will prepare a proposal for the next meeting of the FIDE Technical Commission.
10. If necessary the Chairman of FIDE Technical Commission will communicate with the company that makes the clock concerning modifications.
11. The FIDE Technical Commission will discuss the proposal of the chairman and make a recommendation to the Executive Board/General Assembly or to the Presidential Board.
12. The test result and the decision of FIDE will be reported to the producer/distributor and published on the FIDE website. If a clock is approved by FIDE, the producer/distributor has the right to state that the clock has been tested by FIDE Technical Commission and is "in full accordance with FIDE rules and regulations".
13. If a clock is not approved, the producer/distributor may forward a written appeal including the reasons of his disagreement to the Chairman of FIDE Technical Commission within four weeks after receiving the report of FIDE Technical Commission. The appeal has to be accompanied with a fee of Euro 1.000,-. The Presidential Board will choose three new testers. The procedure according pt. 6, 8 and 9 has to be followed. If the appeal is accepted the appeals fee will be refunded.
14. If a clock is not approved, the producer/distributor may re-apply for approval after the necessary modifications are made. In this case the fee for testing the clock is only Euro 1.000,- (see pt. 4). The procedure and the testers are the same as for the first testing.
15. Each certificate awarded is valid only for a given type and model of a given producer.

B. General testing

The producer is required to send along a testing report of an independent office/bureau that states that the clock is developed according to international electronic design standards (CE in Europe or

FCC in United States).

As a specific requirement the testing report send along by the producer/distributor must give precise figures on battery power consumption in the various states of the clock. (Power on, power off, running while using LED's, as well as running while not using LED's). For evaluation the information on the start-up value of the low battery indication is also required as well as the minimum level of power required.

The clock will be tested on the technical requirements from the FIDE Handbook, C.02 Chapter 5:

1. legibility of the display on 3 meter distance from the front of the clock
2. clear visibility of which player is to move, from all sides of the clock
3. no sound during any stage of the game
4. low battery indication
5. form of protection against changing or erasing data in display
6. presence of accurate short-manual on clock
7. constructional stability of the clock as a whole
8. sturdiness of the players buttons
9. solidity of the on/off button
10. if the on/off button is underneath the clock it must not be possible for it to be (de)activated accidentally
11. after flag fall in all but the last period the flag first fallen shall be shown for at least one minute; after flag fall in the last period the clock shall stop
12. compare clock speed with actual time
13. easy time and move counter correction
- 14 check on the influence of pushing the player's button on running speed

Tests no. 1, 2, 7 and 8 shall be executed in "normal" tournament conditions, with normal light conditions. These tests shall be performed by at least five chess players to be selected by the testing arbiter.

For all these technical and regulation tests a report form will be prepared by FIDE TECHNICAL COMMISSION.

C. Specific testing

The clocks shall foresee at least the following playing modes:

1. one to three periods both in classical and Fischer-mode
2. combination of one or two periods in classical mode followed by one Fisher mode period
3. for the first move the incremental time shall be added before the start of the game; upon completing a move, the incremental time for the next move shall be added
4. the time control used before switching off the clock shall be available by default when the clock is switched on.
5. the common rates of play should be available as default modes, especially
 - 2 hours + 1 hour + 30 minutes;
 - 90 minutes + 15 minutes with an increment of 30 seconds per move from move 1;
 - 100 minutes + 30 minutes with an increment of 30 seconds per move from move 1;
 - 2 hours + 1 hour + 15 minutes and 30 seconds per move in this last period.

Werner Stubenvoll
Chairman

Dr. Dirk De Ridder
Secretary